

CAS 84-66-2

Substance name Diethyl phthalate

Toxicity

Diethyl phthalate has been classified as a Category 1 endocrine disruptor by the European Union based on reproductive effects.¹ In a multi-generation mouse study, epididymal sperm concentration in second generation offspring of the group treated with diethyl phthalate was reduced by 30 percent compared to controls.² Human studies show an association between increased prenatal urinary concentrations of MEP, the primary urinary metabolite of DEP, and changes in hormone concentrations and anogenital distance in male infants. They also report decreased sperm concentrations and decreased sperm motility associated with higher urinary MEP in adult males.³⁻⁷

Exposure

The Danish EPA found diethyl phthalate in plastic components of baby carriers,⁸ in activity carpet,⁹ and in 4 out of 5 PVC soap containers.¹⁰ Monoethyl phthalate, a metabolite indicative of diethyl phthalate exposure, was found in most of the U.S. population sampled in the NHANES survey.¹¹

References

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